

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:AWLUKENS:LM

APPROVED BY EUR: A. A. HARTMAN

C - MR. SONNENFELDT

S/S- MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 065481

EXDIS TOSEC 967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: REPRESENTATION TO GOP

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION TO GOP

REF: SECTO 464

FOLLOWING DECISIONS TAKEN IN MEETING WITH ACTING SECRETARY

AND IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTIONS SECTO 464, COUNSELOR

SONNENFELDT CALLED IN AMBASSADOR THEMIDO MARCH 22. ASST.

SEC. HARTMAN AND IBERIAN DIRECTOR LUKENS ALSO PRESENT.

1. SONNENFELDT ASKED IF SOARES' COMMENT TO CARLUCCI CONCERNING ALLEGED USG INVOLVEMENT IN MARCH 11 ABORTED COUP INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS BY OTELO ABOUT CARLUCCI HIMSELF WAS INTENDED TO BE THE FULL GOP REPLY TO CARLUCCI'S DEMARCHE. ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT EXPECT GOP TO PUBLICLY REPUDIATE OTELO, SONNENFELDT SAID WE WANTED CLEAR AND OFFICIAL INDICATION ON PART OF GOP THAT USG WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN MARCH 11 EVENTS.

2. THEMIDO REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF CARLUCCI'S CONVERSATION WITH SOARES BUT THAT THERE WAS NO REASON

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WHY HE WOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED. IN ANY CASE, HE PROMISED

TO SEND CABLE IMMEDIATELY TO LISBON CONVEYING SONNENFELDT'S POINTS. (IN ASIDE, THEMIDO SAID HIS CABLES GO DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT AND PREMIER AS WELL AS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.)

3. SONNENFELDT THEN EXPRESSED OUR GENERAL CONCERN, BOTH AS FRIENDS AND AS ALLIES, ABOUT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. HE INDICATED PARTICULARLY THAT THERE WERE SIGNS THAT FREEDOM OF POLITICAL LIFE WAS IN PROCESS OF BEING CON- STRICTED. IF THIS WERE THE CASE, WE WOULD REGRET IT. HE THOUGHT THERE WERE FURTHER SIGNS THAT THE APRIL 25 ELECTION MIGHT NOT BE FREE EXPRESSION OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. HE STRESSED THAT USG SPOKE AS FRIEND AND ALLY AND WISHED OUR CONCERN TO BE CONVEYED TO LISBON.

4. THEMIDO REPLIED THAT FREE ELECTIONS HAD ALWAYS BEEN PART OF AFM PROGRAM, BUT THAT SEVERAL INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED ALONG WAY WHICH REQUIRED PROGRAM TO BE CHANGED. THEMIDO STRESSED THAT NEW COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION HAD DECIDED THAT ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE AND THEY WOULD BE FREE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT CONDITIONS WERE BACK TO NORMAL NOW THAT THE REVOLUTION HAD BEEN RELATIVELY PEACEFUL AND BLOODLESS DESPITE A FEW INCIDENTS AND THAT USG SHOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD AS SCHEDULED.

5. SONNENFELDT THEN ALLUDED TO RUMORS THAT SOARES WOULD BE REPLACED. WHILE USG HAD OF COURSE NO RIGHT TO COMMENT ON CHOICE OF FONMIN TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT, WE DID HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR SOARES. SONNENFELDT, HOWEVER, SAID ESSENTIAL POINT WAS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER POSSIBLE CHANGE IN MINISTER MIGHT ALSO INDICATE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN POLICY.

6. THEMIDO REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT EXPECT THAT A CHANGE OF MINISTER WOULD INDICATE ANY CHANGE IN POLICY, AND HE EMPHASIZED GOP'S STATED AGREEMENT TO ABIDE BY ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

7. SONNENFELDT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THEMIDO'S COMMENTS AND FOR HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD CONVEY
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MESSAGE TO LISBON.

8. LISBON 1637 RECEIVED AFTER ABOVE DEMARCHE MADE.

INGERSOLL

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